

REMARKS

Claims 1-2, 5-8, 12, and 13 stand rejected under 35 USC Section 102(e) as allegedly anticipated by Ouellette (US 6,371,720). Claims 1-4 and 9-14 stand rejected under 35 USC Section 102(e) as allegedly anticipated by Heston FIG. 19 (US 6,533,533).

US Patent 6,533,533 to Heston at FIG. 19 shows a high-infeed system. Independent claim 1 has been amended to recite a row conveyor receiving "at a first level" and a layer head receiving "at a second level" with the "second level being above said first level." Claim 12 has been amended to call for moving "upward" said row conveyor to a height coincident with the layer head. As such, independent claims 1 and 12 now position the infeed in a relatively lower location.

Because US Patent 6,533,533 to Heston shows a high-infeed system, the rejection of claims 1-4 and 9-14 as allegedly anticipated by Heston must be withdrawn.

Claim 1 has been amended to call for the "layer head including a set of elongate supports movable between a floor position and an open position." Claim 12 has been amended to recite that the floor comprises "a set of elongate supports."

Because Ouellette fails to show a layer head including "a set of elongate supports" the rejection of claims 1-2, 5-8, 12 and 13 as allegedly anticipated by Ouellette must be withdrawn.

Claims 2-3 and 9-10 have been amended for compatibility with claim 1 as amended. Claim 14 has been amended for compatibility with claim 12 as amended.

Claim 4 has been amended to depend directly from claim 1 and recite "elongate members" as well.

Applicant notes the Examiner's requirement for corrected drawings in response to this Office Action. Applicant further notes the two month due date for this response is August 18, 2003. Applicant will comply with the Examiner's requirement for corrected drawings no later than August 16, 2003.

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Finally, applicant invites the Examiner to discuss the current amendment by telephone as soon as possible. Applicant's representative's telephone number is (503) 220-85785.

In light of the above amendment and remarks, reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections is respectfully requested.

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Respectfully submitted,

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I hereby certify that this paper (along with any paper referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being facsimile transmitted to the Patent and Trademark Office to MAIL STOP FINAL FAX number 1-703-746-7308 ATTENTION Michael Lowe as provided and as referenced above and on the date indicated below.

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